

February 24, 1976

Here two months, six weeks ago, when we started we had no idea what our workload would be in this 60-day session, not the slightest idea. We recognize that a rule change must be in place so that we do know a year ago what our workload will be for the Legislature, which is two years. We all know we must change our traditional attitude that biannual is correct. We must work annually on the basis of a Legislature which is two years. You may get the idea that I strongly oppose Senator Mahoney's move. What you're suspecting is correct. I do strongly oppose this move because I think it is a detriment to the legislative process.

I'll just close with this, this is a deliberative body. If we met for the 150 days of a Legislature and never passed a bill, the people of Nebraska, their hurts and their concerns and their problems, would be heard in this public form of the Nebraska Legislature. If that isn't accomplishment there is no accomplishment in this world!

PRESIDENT: Chair recognizes Senator Clark.

SENATOR CLARK: Mr. President, members. I don't believe anyone here is going to have their mind changed one way or the other. I would certainly ask for the previous question.

PRESIDENT: Do I see five hands? Seeing five hands, the question is, shall debate cease. Have you all voted? Clerk will record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 10 nays, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Debate has ceased. Senator Mahoney, you may close.

SENATOR MAHONEY: Senator Barnett, I will not go around the other side so that you'll not object. I'm going to give five of my ten minutes to Senator Luedtke because I think that he wanted to speak. If you don't mind, Mr. Chairman ... or Mr. President, may I give five of my minutes of closing to Senator Luedtke? He really waited too long this time. He wanted to get in and have the last say. He didn't get a chance to. In graciousness, I give you my five minutes.

PRESIDENT: It's rather unusual. Are you asking unanimous consent, sir? Any objections? Proceed sir.

SENATOR LUEDTKE: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I would ... just had said I thought it was very unfair to close debate when those of us who had our lights on weren't ready to speak on this important matter. This is very important. Senator Mahoney and I have debated this for a number of years. I thank him for his courtesy in allowing me to say a few words.

I do wish that Senator Mahoney would have made an introductory speech so that we would have known what to respond to. However, Senator Mahoney can still ask us questions in his closing if he wants to.